

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the four paragraphs in the Summary of the Invention as filed that remained in this application after entry of the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 6, 2003 as follows:

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) defining a maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

c) transmitting in response to the defined maintenance schedule a ~~blocking order requesting~~ request to a system that schedules production for a period of time in a production schedule to perform said maintenance action ~~to a system that schedules the production.~~

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) requesting in response to the at least one maintenance trigger a period of time in a production schedule to perform the maintenance action; and

c) determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and in response to the request for the period of time in the production schedule to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action.

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to define a

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maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to the defined maintenance schedule received from maintenance scheduling system for transmitting a blocking request to the production scheduling system a request for a period of order requesting a time in a production schedule to perform the maintenance action ~~to the production scheduling system.~~

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

~~a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to generate a request for a time to perform the maintenance action;~~

~~—b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and~~

b) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to generate a request for a period of time in the production scheduling system to perform the maintenance action; and

c) means responsive to the request for the period of time to perform the maintenance action in the production scheduling system for determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and the time to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action and transmitting the time for performance of the maintenance action to the production scheduling system.

Please amend the Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s) as follows:

a) the paragraph that starts at line 15 on page 8 of the application as filed as follows:

Three different embodiments for the present invention are

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described herein. Each embodiment includes a CMMS. ~~As used herein in~~ In describing all of these embodiments of the present invention, the term "CMMS" as used herein, means any system or tool capable of at least scheduling the maintenance of assets. Of course, the CMMS may also perform other functions in addition to scheduling of asset maintenance. Those other functions depend on the capability of the CMMS.

b) the paragraph that starts at line 33 on page 8 of the application as filed as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, module 16 interacts with PS system 12 and CMMS 14 to provide the optimized maintenance and production scheduling information. The interaction of module 16 with PS system 12 and CMMS 14 requires the use of well known communication methods such as OLE, COM and web services and specific messages for module 16 to communicate with those systems. The design of such messages need not be detailed herein as they are, from the description of the system of the present invention, well within the skill of those in the art.

c) the paragraph that starts at line 29 on page 16 of the application as filed as follows:

Referring now to Fig. 2, there is shown a block diagram of another embodiment for the system of the present invention. In this embodiment, the CMMS 24 in response to the acquisition either by receipt from an external source or internal generation of a new MT 18 defines a possible new maintenance schedule to take into account the maintenance action required by the new MT 18. As can be appreciated the new MT 18 may be generated outside of CMMS 24 or internally to CMMS 24 as for example by a periodically occurring maintenance action which is managed outside of CMMS 24.

d) the paragraph that starts at line 11 on page 23 of the application as filed as follows:

Referring now to Fig. 3, there is shown a further embodiment of the present invention in which a module 36 also

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has an optimization function as is described below. In this embodiment, a CMMS 34 acquires either by receipt from an external source or internal generation a MT 18. Upon acquisition either by receipt or internal generation of the MT 18, the CMMS 34 asks module 36 for confirmation of a time slot to perform the maintenance action required by MT 18.